

Application No. 10/733,764
Amendment dated August 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2006

Docket No.: 31509-199595

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method for digital printing, in particular comprising a printing device in several colours, the printing device comprising

a multitude of print head devices (clusters) which can be moved in a first direction (X) over the material to be printed, in each case with a multitude of arrangements of piezotechnical printing elements in one line (jetting assemblies), arranged side-by-side, and at least one UV light-source arrangement (130, 132, 134) to the side of the moveable print head devices (clusters) for admitting UV light to ink which cures by exposure to UV light, wherein

the alignment (Y) of each arrangement is essentially in vertical direction, in which the print head devices (clusters) are movable (X);

in each of the print head devices (clusters) the arrangements, that are arranged side-by-side, of printing elements in one line (jetting assemblies) are in each case offset by a micro-step in the direction (Y) of the line;

the UV light-source arrangement (130, 132, 134), of which there is at least one, is movable together with the print head devices (clusters);

the UV light-source arrangement (130, 132, 134), of which there is at least one, is designed such that it is suitable for partially curing the ink without completely curing it; and

furthermore, the printing device comprises a further UV-curing light-source arrangement (136) for curing the ink; according to claim 1,

wherein printing in each selected colour is carried out in the following steps:

Application No. 10/733,764
Amendment dated August 10, 2006
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Docket No.: 31509-199595

(A) selective printing of selected dots in a first matrix of dots in the selected colour, which dots are spaced apart by a distance which exceeds the dot size, by means of the print head lines of the first print half, which print head lines are located side by side between two UV light-sources;

(B) partial curing of the print droplets by means of a middle UV light-source (132);

(C) selective printing of selected dots of a second matrix of intermediate dots in X-direction with the parallel print heads of the other print half, in each case using the same colour;

(D) partial curing of these intermediate dots, using a first outer UV light-source (130);

(E) advancing the material to be printed in Y-direction by half the length of the distance between the jets within a jet head line;

(F) selective printing of selected dots of a third matrix of intermediate dots, in relation to the first or second matrix, in Y-direction in the selected colour, using the print heads of the second print half;

(G) partial curing of the print droplets by means of the middle UV light-source (132);

(H) selective printing of selected dots of a fourth matrix of intermediate dots in X-direction, in relation to the third matrix, in the selected colour, using the print heads of the first print half;

Application No. 10/733,764
Amendment dated August 10, 2006
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Docket No.: 31509-199595

(I) partial curing of these intermediate dots, using a second outer UV light-source (134);

(J) advancing the material by the length of a print head line;

(K) repeating steps (A) to (I) until the print image is generated on the material in the selected colour; and

(L) curing all the dots, using a curing UV light-source (136);

wherein printing takes place according to steps (A) to (I), at first in a first colour, and then at each repeat step (K) printing is added in a further colour, until print as been applied in all colours.

Claim 8. (Original) The method for printing according to claim 7, whereby at the end of the material to be printed, first printing of the first colour and then printing of subsequent colours in turn is completed.